

Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument

Update - March 2002

I would like to start using this one-page update format as a means of contacting you on a regular basis as we begin preparing a resource management plan for the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument.

Few public resource topics have created as much discussion in the past 25 years as the designation of the national monument. We want to continue offering the public every opportunity to obtain accurate information and to participate as we move forward with a management plan.

The first step in this planning process is scoping. During this phase, we'll ask the public to help define the issues to be resolved in the management plan.

We've made tentative plans for scoping open houses throughout north central Montana. We plan to meet with the public in Winifred, Lewistown, Fort Benton, Great Falls, Havre, Chinook, Malta and Fort Belknap. We will work hard to ensure citizens have every opportunity to stay involved with and informed about the planning process for this monument. Scoping will be one of many opportunities for public involvement.

The plans for these scoping open houses will remain tentative until a Notice of Intent to Prepare a Resource Management Plan is printed in the Federal Register. The actual dates and times for these open houses will be announced immediately following publication of this Notice of Intent in the Federal Register.

We're not sure when that publication will take place. When it does appear, the notice will serve as the formal starting point for the planning process and we'll confirm our plans for hosting these open houses. We'll inform you just as quickly as we can about the details (dates, times and locations, etc.) of these scoping open houses with another update or other mailings, through the media, personal contacts and speaking opportunities.

If you have questions about this monument or the resource management planning process, please contact me at your convenience.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Gary Slagel

Monument Manager

